

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-16, 18, 20-22, 24, 26-33, 35, 37 and 38 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 1, 16, 22 and 33 are amended and claim 8 is canceled. Claims 1, 16, 22 and 33 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from canceled claim 8. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner McArdle for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 12, 26, 30 and 37. By this Response, Applicants have amended the independent claims to include allowable subject matter from dependent claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

II. Submission of Formal Figures 3A and 3B

In response to the Examiner indication that the informal drawings of Figures 3A and 3B are acceptable as submitted in the Response filed November 7, 2003, Applicants are submitting a complete set of formal drawings including Figures 3A and 3B.

III. Objection to Claims

The Office Action states that claims 8, 12, 26, 30 and 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 8 has been rewritten to overcome this objection. Claims 12, 26, 30 and 37 are dependent on independent claims 1, 22 and 33, which have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 12, 26, 30 and 37.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the prior art of record and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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